

6. SOME NOTES ON THE PAINTED PARTRIDGE [*FRANCOLINUS PICTUS* (JARDINE & SELBY)] AROUND BOMBAY : A CORRECTION

In the last issue of the *Journal* (61 : 447) I said that the Painted Partridge [*Francolinus pictus* (Jardine & Selby)] calls only during the courting and breeding seasons, and gave the first and last dates as 8th April and 5th November. While waiting for duck at dusk at Ghoti, Nasik District, Maharashtra, on 25th December 1964, I thought I heard a Painted Partridge call but was not quite sure.

On the following day we were driving back from Nasik in the late afternoon to get into position for the evening flight (at Lake Beale) when we ran out of petrol some 10 miles from Ghoti. Half an hour after sunset, while still waiting for petrol and thinking of all the duck that had escaped, we heard a Painted Partridge call some distance from the road and a reply from far away. Jamshed Panday and I walked towards the calling bird and kicked about the bushes, but no bird was seen. As we walked back to the car almost in the dark, a bird rose from the grass at our feet and was dropped and collected. It was a male in non-breeding condition. On the following day we worked the area and got 3 more birds all with undeveloped gonads.

I also find the following in my notes made at Vidishi, Sironj (old Tonk State), Madhya Pradesh, on 18 December 1958: 'In the evening the Grey Partridge were calling all around. A few Painted Partridge joined in later and continued after sunset, when the Grey had stopped.'

It would therefore appear that the Painted Partridge does call outside the breeding season—though perhaps only late in the evening, for it is unlikely that we could have missed the call during the daytime over all these years in the Konkan.

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7. FOOD OF THE WHITEBREASTED KINGFISHER [*HALCYON SMYRNENSIS* (LINNAEUS)]

Rawal Lake, situated a few miles north of Rawalpindi, has been newly formed by the construction of a small dam, to provide for the increased water requirements of that city as well as the new capital of Islamabad. It is about 1100 feet above sea-level, and as yet is